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STAN LEE presents: THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

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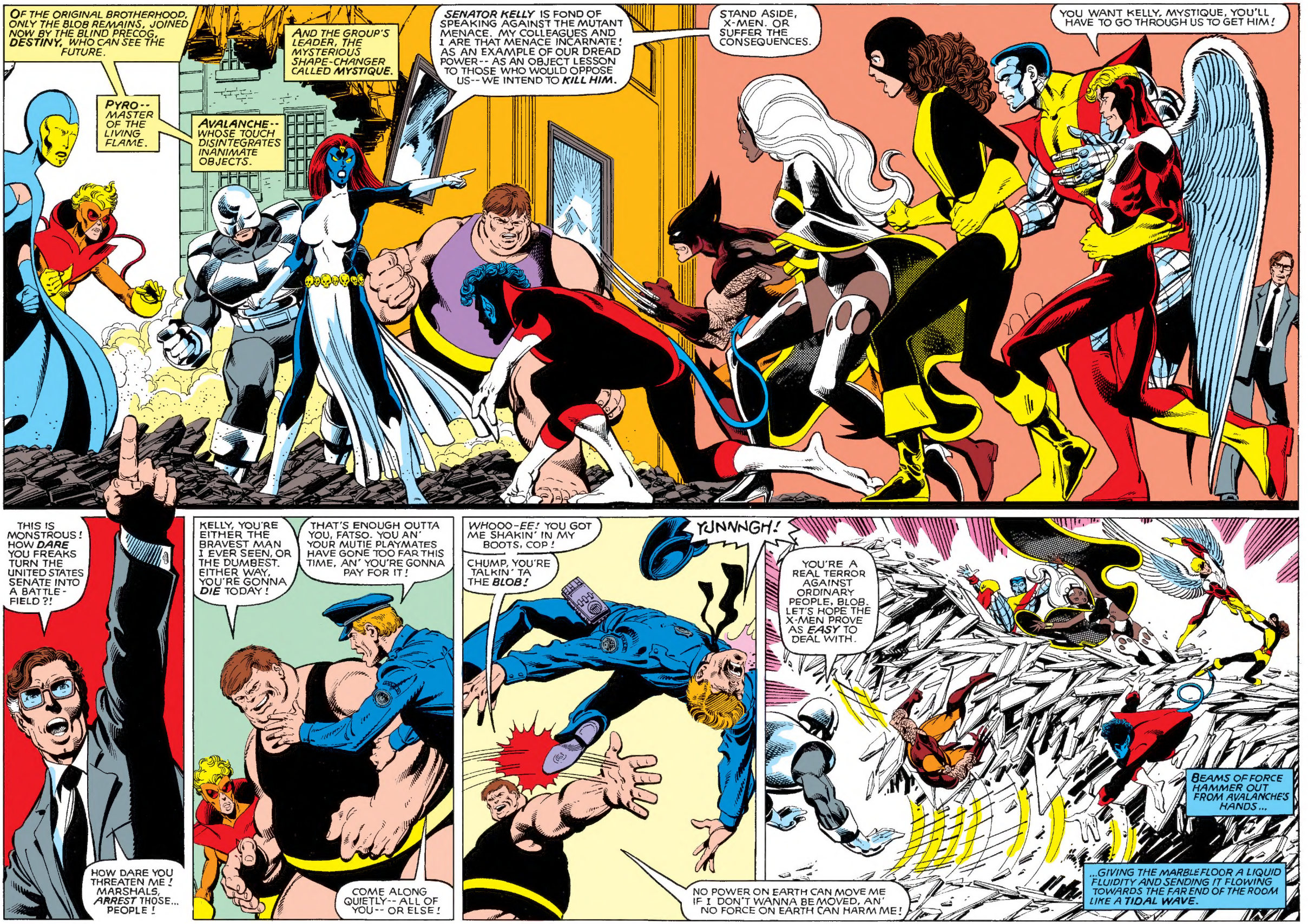
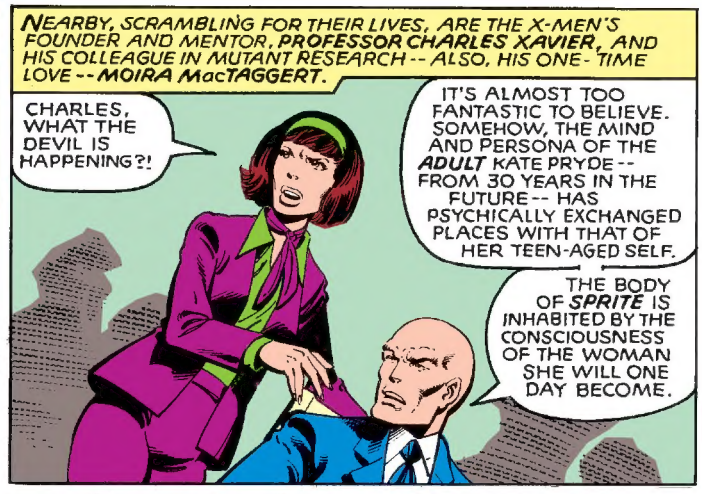
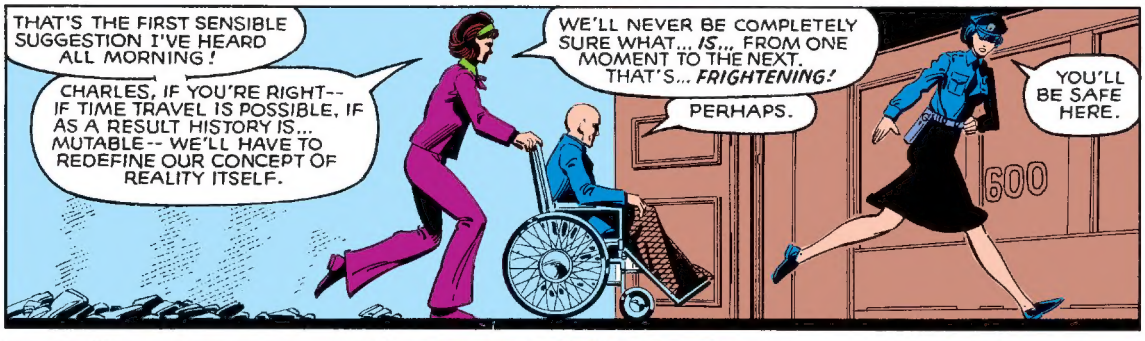

OF THE ORIGINAL BROTHERHOOD, ONLY THE BLOB REMAINS, JOINED NOW BY THE BLIND PRECOG, DESTINY, WHO CAN SEE THE FUTURE.
PYRO-- MASTER OF THE LIVING FLAME.
AVALANCHE-- WHOSE TOUCH DISINTEGRATES INANIMATE OBJECTS.
AND THE GROUP'S LEADER, THE MYSTERIOUS SHAPE-CHANGER CALLED MYSTIQUE.
SENATOR KELLY IS FOND OF SPEAKING AGAINST THE MUTANT MENACE. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE THAT MENACE INCARNATE! AS AN EXAMPLE OF OUR DREAD POWER-- AS AN OBJECT LESSON TO THOSE WHO WOULD OPPOSE US-- WE INTEND TO KILL HIM.
STAND ASIDE, X-MEN. OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
YOU WANT KELLY, MYSTIQUE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH US TO GET HIM!
THIS IS MONSTROUS! HOW DARE YOU FREAKS TURN THE UNITED STATES SENATE INTO A BATTLE-FIELD?!
HOW DARE YOU THREATEN ME! MARSHALS, ARREST THOSE... PEOPLE!
KELLY, YOU'RE EITHER THE BRAVEST MAN I EVER SEEN, OR THE DUMBEST. EITHER WAY, YOU'RE GONNA DIE TODAY!
THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU, FATSO. YOU AN' YOUR MUTIE PLAYMATES HAVE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, AN' YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR IT!
COME ALONG QUIETLY-- ALL OF YOU-- OR ELSE!
WHOOO-EE! YOU GOT ME SHAKIN' IN MY BOOTS, COP!
CHUMP, YOU'RE TALKIN' TA THE BLOB!
YUNNNGH!
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN MOVE ME IF I DON'T WANNA BE MOVED, AN' NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN HARM ME!
YOU'RE A REAL TERROR AGAINST ORDINARY PEOPLE, BLOB. LET'S HOPE THE X-MEN PROVE AS EASY TO DEAL WITH.
BEAMS OF FORCE HAMMER OUT FROM AVALANCHE'S HANDS...
...GIVING THE MARBLE FLOOR A LIQUID FLUIDITY AND SENDING IT FLOWING TOWARDS THE FAR END OF THE ROOM LIKE A TIDAL WAVE.

NIGHTCRAWLER REACTS FIRST, USING ACROBATIC SKILLS HONED BY A LIFETIME IN THE CIRCUS TO KEEP HIS BALANCE ON THE SWIFTLY TILTING FLOOR.
THEN, HE ATTACKS-- IN A STYLE UNIQUELY HIS OWN.
BAMF
HE TELEPORTS...
... MATERIALIZING AGAIN AND AGAIN RIGHT BEHIND AVALANCHE.
I CAN PUNCH AND DISAPPEAR FAR FASTER THAN YOU CAN REACT, HERR LAWINE. EVEN YOUR ARMOR WON'T PROTECT YOU FOR LONG AGAINST THIS FIERCE AN ASSAULT.
AVALANCHE, STRIKE TO YOUR LEFT!
THAT IS WHERE NIGHTCRAWLER WILL REAPPEAR!
WHOULFF!!
SO, COLOSSUS, YOU'VE THE POWER TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO SOME FORM OF METAL.
I WONDER; CAN THAT METAL MELT?
I DO NOT KNOW. I DO NOT INTEND TO FIND OUT.
THIS ENGLISHMAN HAS CREATED A HAND OF FIRE! IT'S GRABBING ME!
THAT'S A FANCY FLAME-THROWER YOU'RE PACKIN', BUB.
I WONDER WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I PUNCH MY CLAWS THROUGH THE FUEL TANK AND INTO YOUR STINKIN' HIDE!
WOLVERINE'S RETRACTABLE CLAWS ARE FORGED OF ADAMANTIUM, THE STRONGEST METAL KNOWN. AND HE HAS NO COMPUNCTION ABOUT USING THEM.
WOLVERINE, DON'T!
STORM-- HAVE YOU FLIPPED?! WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?!
THE X-MEN'S NEWLY-APPOINTED TEAM LEADER IGNORES WOLVERINE'S IMPASSIONED PROTESTS, AS SHE USES HER ELEMENTAL POWERS...
...TO SIMULTANEOUSLY CREATE A WHIRLWIND THAT YANKS WOLVERINE AWAY FROM PYRO, AND A TORRENTIAL BLAST OF RAIN TO DOUSE THE FLAME HAND AROUND COLOSSUS.

NICE MOVE, STORM. WITH THE COUNTRY'S GROWING ANTI-MUTANT SENTIMENT, THE LAST THING WE NEED IS WOLVIE CARVING SOMEONE UP-- EVEN IF IT IS A VILLAIN.
ANGEL, FIND SENATOR KELLY! HE MUST BE PROTECTED AT ANY COST!

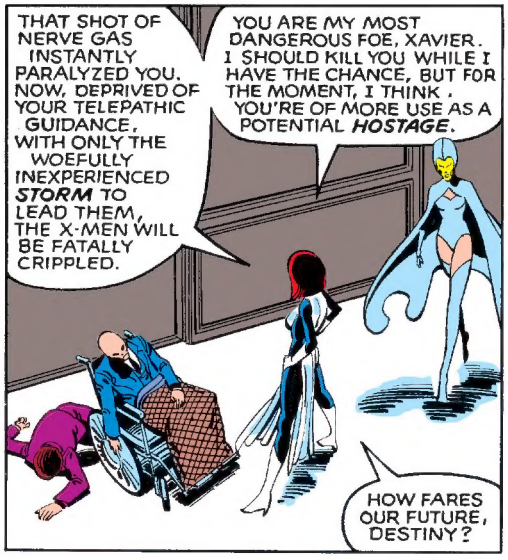

NEARBY, SCRAMBLING FOR THEIR LIVES, ARE THE X-MEN'S FOUNDER AND MENTOR, PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, AND HIS COLLEAGUE IN MUTANT RESEARCH -- ALSO, HIS ONE-TIME LOVE -- MOIRA MacTAGGERT.
CHARLES, WHAT THE DEVIL IS HAPPENING?!
IT'S ALMOST TOO FANTASTIC TO BELIEVE. SOMEHOW, THE MIND AND PERSONA OF THE ADULT KATE PRYDE -- FROM 30 YEARS IN THE FUTURE -- HAS PSYCHICALLY EXCHANGED PLACES WITH THAT OF HER TEEN-AGED SELF.
THE BODY OF SPRITE IS INHABITED BY THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE WOMAN SHE WILL ONE DAY BECOME.

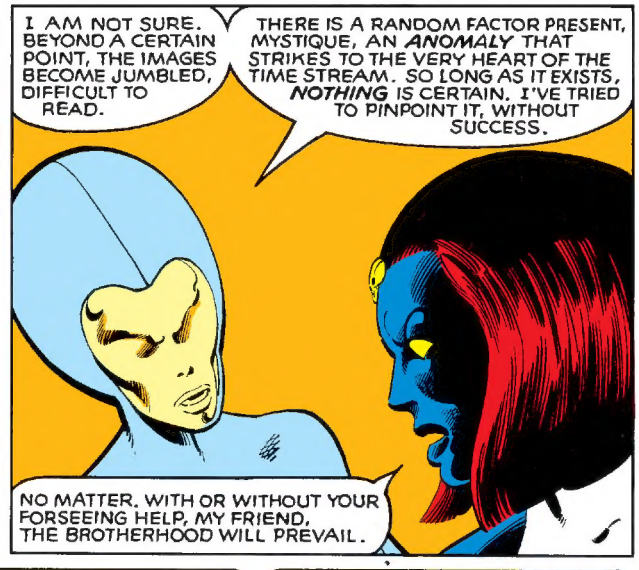
THAT'S DAFT!
MOIRA, I TELEPATHICALLY SCANNED HER MIND. IT IS THE TRUTH.
PROFESSOR XAVIER, LET'S GET YOU AND Dr. MacTAGGERT OUT OF HERE!

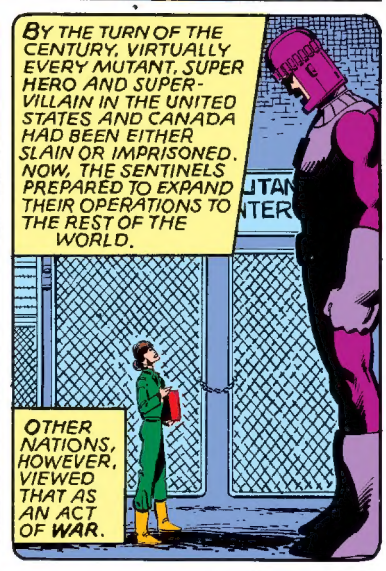

THAT'S THE FIRST SENSIBLE SUGGESTION I'VE HEARD ALL MORNING!
CHARLES, IF YOU'RE RIGHT-- IF TIME TRAVEL IS POSSIBLE, IF AS A RESULT HISTORY IS... MUTABLE-- WE'LL HAVE TO REDEFINE OUR CONCEPT OF REALITY ITSELF.
WE'LL NEVER BE COMPLETELY SURE WHAT... IS... FROM ONE MOMENT TO THE NEXT. THAT'S... FRIGHTENING!
PERHAPS.
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE.
600

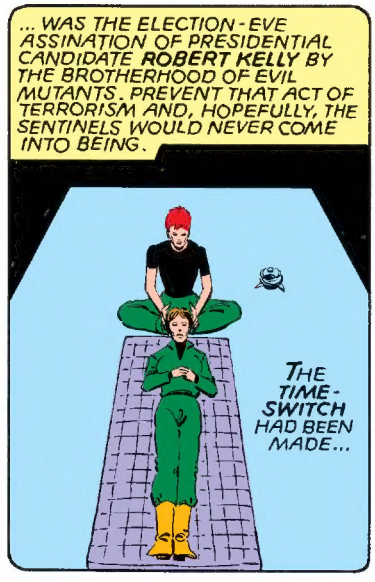
THANK GOOD-NESS.
WAIT! MOIRA, I SENSE SOME SORT OF ENERGY FIELD AROUND THIS WOMAN. SHE IS NOT WHAT SHE SEEMS--
AARGKGH!
YOU SPOTTED THE ELECTRONIC DAMPER FIELD WHICH KEPT YOU FROM READING MY MIND, XAVIER...

...UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE TO DO YOU ANY GOOD.

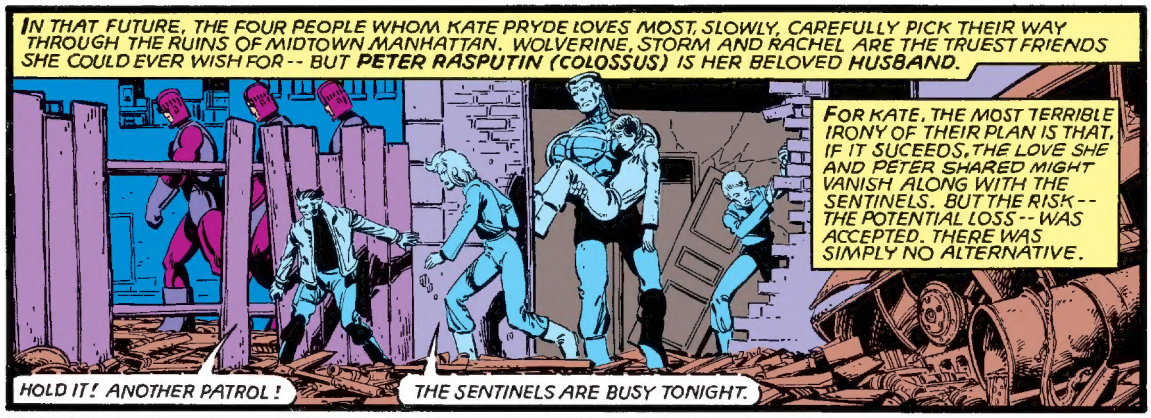






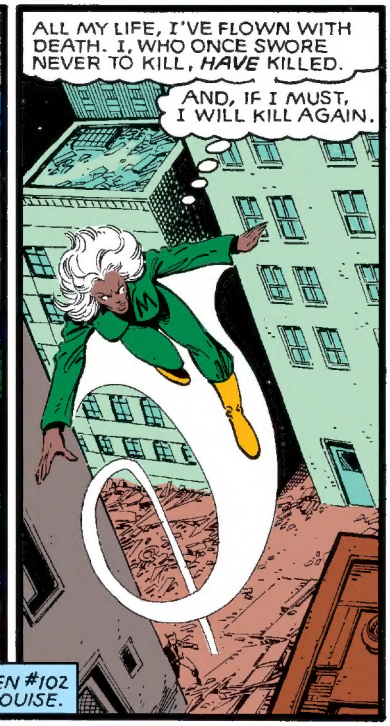


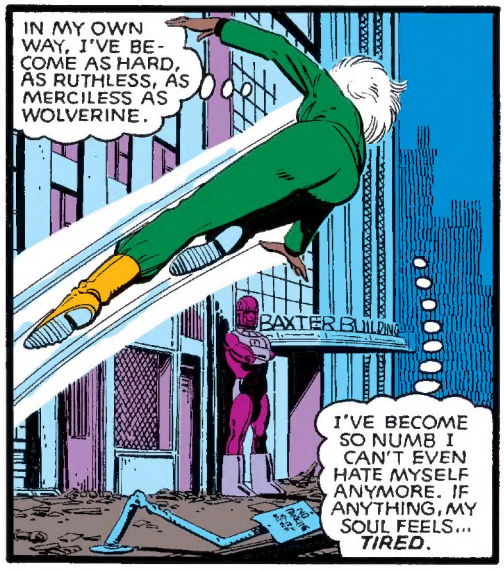
*FOR DETAILS, SEE LAST ISH -- LOUISE.

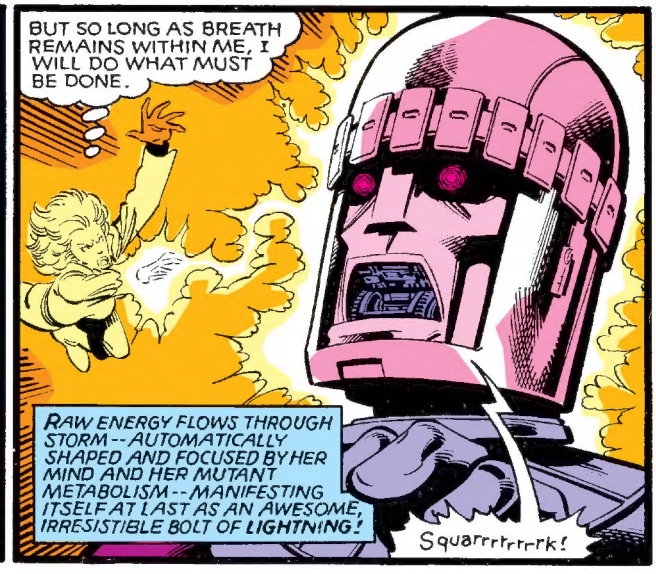

IN THAT FUTURE, THE FOUR PEOPLE WHOM KATE PRYDE LOVES MOST, SLOWLY, CAREFULLY PICK THEIR WAY THROUGH THE RUINS OF MIDTOWN MANHATTAN. WOLVERINE, STORM AND RACHEL ARE THE TRUEST FRIENDS SHE COULD EVER WISH FOR -- BUT PETER RASPUTIN (COLOSSUS) IS HER BELOVED HUSBAND.
FOR KATE, THE MOST TERRIBLE IRONY OF THEIR PLAN IS THAT, IF IT SUCEEDS, THE LOVE SHE AND PETER SHARED MIGHT VANISH ALONG WITH THE SENTINELS. BUT THE RISK -- THE POTENTIAL LOSS -- WAS ACCEPTED. THERE WAS SIMPLY NO ALTERNATIVE.
HOLD IT! ANOTHER PATROL!
THE SENTINELS ARE BUSY TONIGHT.

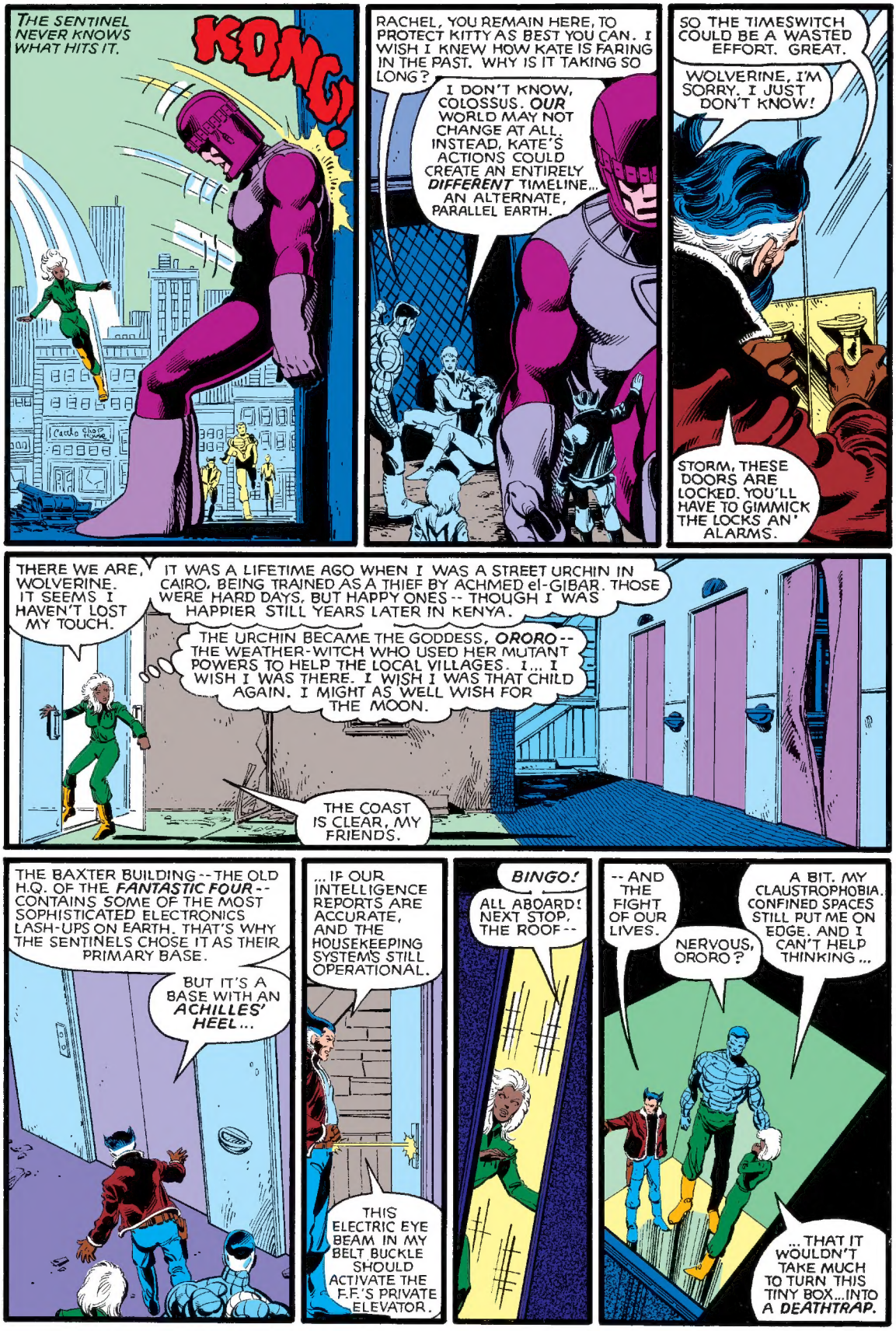
NOT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING I SUCCESSFULLY BUSTED YOU OUT OF YOUR SOUTH BRONX CONCENTRATION CAMP, TRASHING MORE'N OUR FAIR SHARE O' SENTINELS IN THE PROCESS.
THEY'LL BE EXPECTING US TO TRY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH MY OUTFIT, THE CANADIAN RESISTANCE ARMY.
THEY WON'T BE EXPECTING AN ATTACK ON THEIR MAIN HEADQUARTERS, THE BAXTER BUILDING.

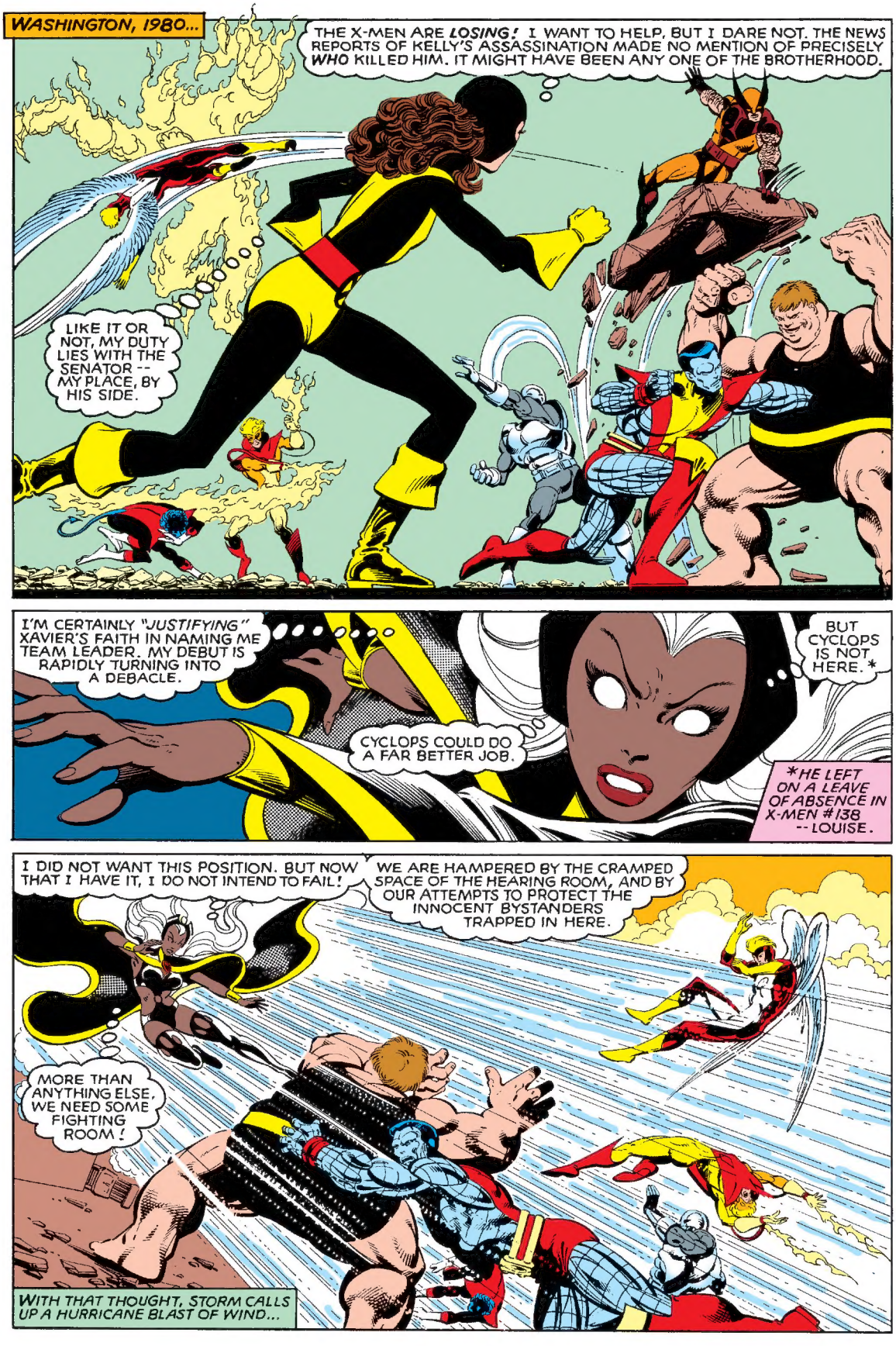
IF WE KNOCK THAT OUT, WE'LL HAMSTRING THEIR OPERATIONS ACROSS THE ENTIRE CONTINENT. WE'LL HAVE TO HIT HARD AN' FAST...
I WILL TAKE THE LEAD, LOGAN.
OKAY, 'RORO. GOOD LUCK.
MY FRIEND, I STOPPED BELIEVING IN LUCK THE DAY I SAW MY PARENTS SLAIN BEFORE MY EYES, WHILE I SURVIVED. *
*X-MEN #102 -- LOUISE.

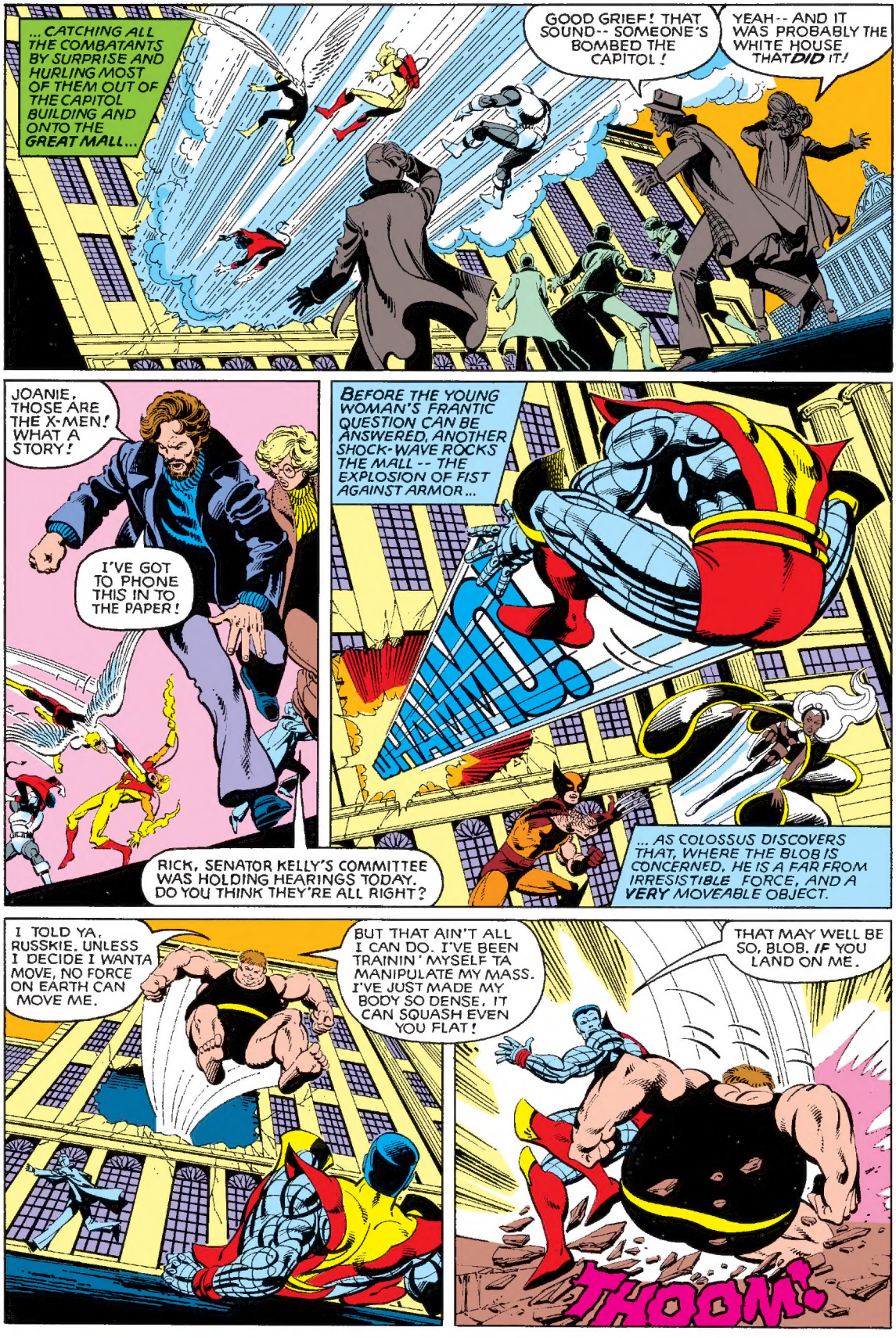

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE FLOWN WITH DEATH. I, WHO ONCE SWORE NEVER TO KILL, HAVE KILLED.
AND, IF I MUST, I WILL KILL AGAIN.

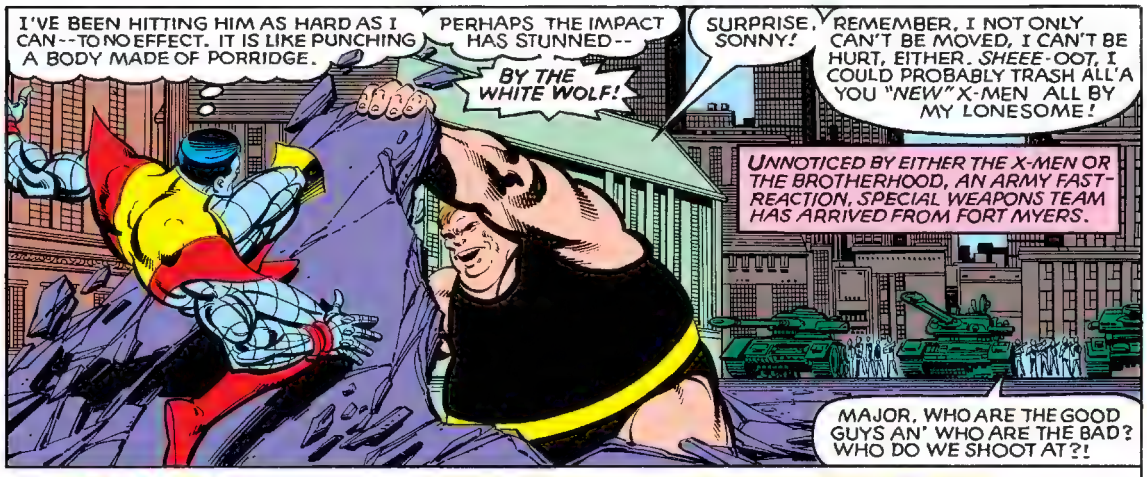

IN MY OWN WAY, I'VE BECOME AS HARD, AS RUTHLESS, AS MERCILESS AS WOLVERINE.
BAXTER BUILDING
I'VE BECOME SO NUMB I CAN'T EVEN HATE MYSELF ANYMORE. IF ANYTHING, MY SOUL FEELS... TIRED.


BUT SO LONG AS BREATH REMAINS WITHIN ME, I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
RAW ENERGY FLOWS THROUGH STORM -- AUTOMATICALLY SHAPED AND FOCUSED BY HER MIND AND HER MUTANT METABOLISM -- MANIFESTING ITSELF AT LAST AS AN AWESOME, IRRESISTIBLE BOLT OF LIGHTNING!
Squarrrrrrrk!

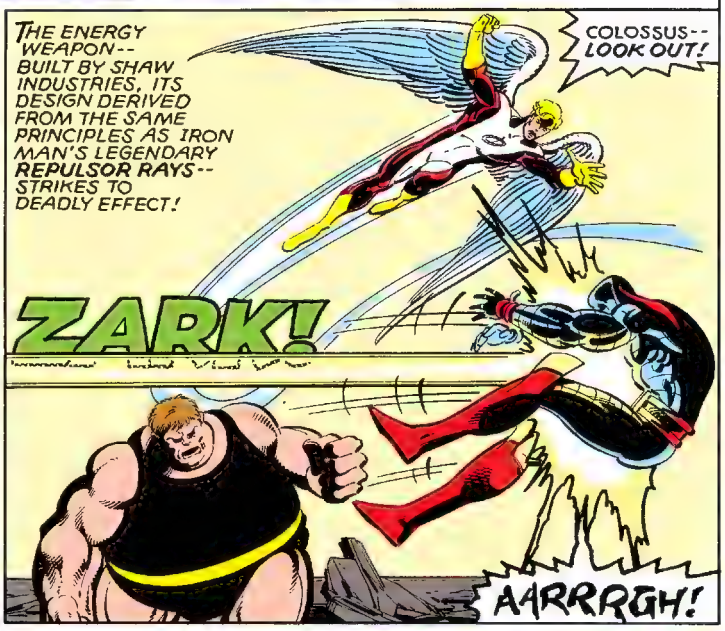

THE SENTINEL NEVER KNOWS WHAT HITS IT.
KONG!
RACHEL, YOU REMAIN HERE, TO PROTECT KITTY AS BEST YOU CAN. I WISH I KNEW HOW KATE IS FARING IN THE PAST. WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG?
I DON'T KNOW, COLOSSUS. OUR WORLD MAY NOT CHANGE AT ALL. INSTEAD, KATE'S ACTIONS COULD CREATE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TIMELINE... AN ALTERNATE, PARALLEL EARTH.
SO THE TIMESWITCH COULD BE A WASTED EFFORT. GREAT.
WOLVERINE, I'M SORRY. I JUST DON'T KNOW!
STORM, THESE DOORS ARE LOCKED. YOU'LL HAVE TO GIMMICK THE LOCKS AN' ALARMS.
THERE WE ARE, WOLVERINE. IT SEEMS I HAVEN'T LOST MY TOUCH.
IT WAS A LIFETIME AGO WHEN I WAS A STREET URCHIN IN CAIRO, BEING TRAINED AS A THIEF BY ACHMED el-GIBAR. THOSE WERE HARD DAYS, BUT HAPPY ONES -- THOUGH I WAS HAPPIER STILL YEARS LATER IN KENYA.
THE URCHIN BECAME THE GODDESS, ORORO -- THE WEATHER-WITCH WHO USED HER MUTANT POWERS TO HELP THE LOCAL VILLAGES. I... I WISH I WAS THERE. I WISH I WAS THAT CHILD AGAIN. I MIGHT AS WELL WISH FOR THE MOON.
THE COAST IS CLEAR, MY FRIENDS.
THE BAXTER BUILDING -- THE OLD H.Q. OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR -- CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS LASH-UPS ON EARTH. THAT'S WHY THE SENTINELS CHOSE IT AS THEIR PRIMARY BASE.
BUT IT'S A BASE WITH AN ACHILLES' HEEL...
... IF OUR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, AND THE HOUSEKEEPING SYSTEM'S STILL OPERATIONAL.
THIS ELECTRIC EYE BEAM IN MY BELT BUCKLE SHOULD ACTIVATE THE F.F.'S PRIVATE ELEVATOR.
BINGO!
ALL ABOARD! NEXT STOP, THE ROOF --
-- AND THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES.
NERVOUS, ORORO?
A BIT. MY CLAUSTROPHOBIA. CONFINED SPACES STILL PUT ME ON EDGE. AND I CAN'T HELP THINKING ...
... THAT IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH TO TURN THIS TINY BOX... INTO A DEATHTRAP.


WASHINGTON, 1980...
THE X-MEN ARE LOSING! I WANT TO HELP, BUT I DARE NOT. THE NEWS REPORTS OF KELLY'S ASSASSINATION MADE NO MENTION OF PRECISELY WHO KILLED HIM. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANY ONE OF THE BROTHERHOOD.
LIKE IT OR NOT, MY DUTY LIES WITH THE SENATOR -- MY PLACE, BY HIS SIDE.
I'M CERTAINLY "JUSTIFYING" XAVIER'S FAITH IN NAMING ME TEAM LEADER. MY DEBUT IS RAPIDLY TURNING INTO A DEBACLE.
CYCLOPS COULD DO A FAR BETTER JOB.
BUT CYCLOPS IS NOT HERE.*
*HE LEFT ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN X-MEN #138 -- LOUISE.
I DID NOT WANT THIS POSITION. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE IT, I DO NOT INTEND TO FAIL!
WE ARE HAMPERED BY THE CRAMPED SPACE OF THE HEARING ROOM, AND BY OUR ATTEMPTS TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS TRAPPED IN HERE.
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, WE NEED SOME FIGHTING ROOM!
WITH THAT THOUGHT, STORM CALLS UP A HURRICANE BLAST OF WIND...

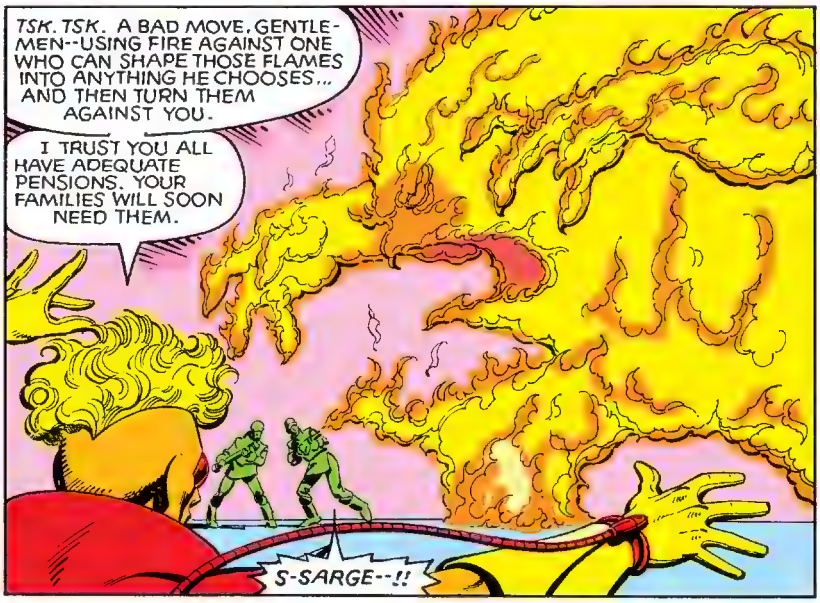

... CATCHING ALL THE COMBATANTS BY SURPRISE AND HURLING MOST OF THEM OUT OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING AND ONTO THE GREAT MALL...
GOOD GRIEF! THAT SOUND-- SOMEONE'S BOMBED THE CAPITOL!
YEAH-- AND IT WAS PROBABLY THE WHITE HOUSE THAT DID IT!
JOANIE, THOSE ARE THE X-MEN! WHAT A STORY!
I'VE GOT TO PHONE THIS IN TO THE PAPER!
RICK, SENATOR KELLY'S COMMITTEE WAS HOLDING HEARINGS TODAY. DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL RIGHT?
BEFORE THE YOUNG WOMAN'S FRANTIC QUESTION CAN BE ANSWERED, ANOTHER SHOCK-WAVE ROCKS THE MALL -- THE EXPLOSION OF FIST AGAINST ARMOR...
... AS COLOSSUS DISCOVERS THAT, WHERE THE BLOB IS CONCERNED, HE IS A FAR FROM IRRESISTIBLE FORCE, AND A VERY MOVEABLE OBJECT.
I TOLD YA, RUSSKIE. UNLESS I DECIDE I WANTA MOVE, NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN MOVE ME.
BUT THAT AIN'T ALL I CAN DO. I'VE BEEN TRAININ' MYSELF TA MANIPULATE MY MASS. I'VE JUST MADE MY BODY SO DENSE, IT CAN SQUASH EVEN YOU FLAT!
THAT MAY WELL BE SO, BLOB. IF YOU LAND ON ME.
THOOM!


I'VE BEEN HITTING HIM AS HARD AS I CAN--TO NO EFFECT. IT IS LIKE PUNCHING A BODY MADE OF PORRIDGE.
PERHAPS THE IMPACT HAS STUNNED--
BY THE WHITE WOLF!
SURPRISE, SONNY!
REMEMBER, I NOT ONLY CAN'T BE MOVED, I CAN'T BE HURT, EITHER. SHEEE-OOT, I COULD PROBABLY TRASH ALL'A YOU "NEW" X-MEN ALL BY MY LONESOME!
UNNOTICED BY EITHER THE X-MEN OR THE BROTHERHOOD, AN ARMY FAST-REACTION, SPECIAL WEAPONS TEAM HAS ARRIVED FROM FORT MYERS.
MAJOR, WHO ARE THE GOOD GUYS AN' WHO ARE THE BAD? WHO DO WE SHOOT AT?!

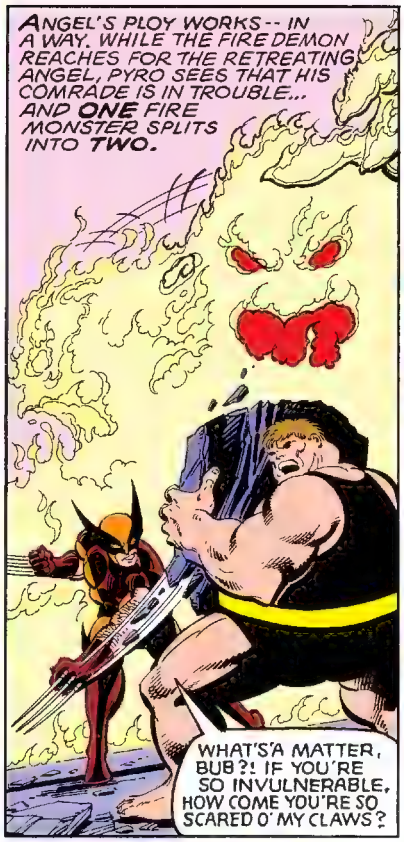
IT DOESN'T MATTER, SERGEANT. TRASH 'EM ALL! WE'LL SORT OUT THE DETAILS LATER.
CONCUSSION CANNON--FIRE!

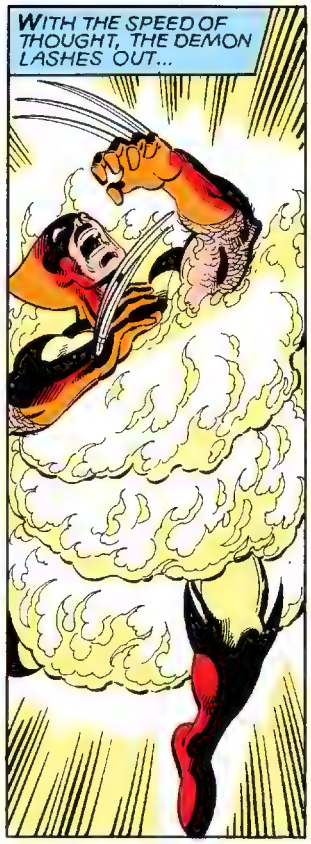

THE ENERGY WEAPON--BUILT BY SHAW INDUSTRIES, ITS DESIGN DERIVED FROM THE SAME PRINCIPLES AS IRON MAN'S LEGENDARY REPULSOR RAYS--STRIKES TO DEADLY EFFECT!
COLOSSUS--LOOK OUT!
ZARK!
AARRRGH!

THAT'S ONE DOWN. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T PERSUADE THE OTHERS...
...THAT THEIR FIGHTING DAYS ARE OVER.


TSK. TSK. A BAD MOVE, GENTLEMEN--USING FIRE AGAINST ONE WHO CAN SHAPE THOSE FLAMES INTO ANYTHING HE CHOOSES... AND THEN TURN THEM AGAINST YOU.
I TRUST YOU ALL HAVE ADEQUATE PENSIONS. YOUR FAMILIES WILL SOON NEED THEM.
S-SARGE--!!

THE SOLDIERS ARE PARALYZED WITH FEAR!
EVEN IF THEY RAN, PYRO'S BEASTIE WOULD FRY THEM BEFORE THEY GOT A DOZEN STEPS.
I'M THE BETTER TARGET--THE MORE DANGEROUS FOE. I'VE GOT TO CATCH PYRO'S ATTENTION, DRAW HIS CREATURE AFTER ME!


ANGEL'S PLOY WORKS -- IN A WAY. WHILE THE FIRE DEMON REACHES FOR THE RETREATING ANGEL, PYRO SEES THAT HIS COMRADE IS IN TROUBLE... AND ONE FIRE MONSTER SPLITS INTO TWO.
WHAT'S'A MATTER, BUB?! IF YOU'RE SO INVULNERABLE, HOW COME YOU'RE SO SCARED O' MY CLAWS?


WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE DEMON LASHES OUT...

ONLY SECONDS TO ACT. EVEN WOLVERINE'S MUTANT FAST-HEALING ABILITY CAN'T COPE WITH THE DAMAGE THAT FLAME HAND WILL DO.
PYRO'S FIRE MONSTER IS HUGE. I'LL NEED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF POWER TO COUNTER IT.
AND I'LL HAVE TO DO IT ON THE FIRST PASS. WOLVERINE WON'T SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO TRY A SECOND.

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, STORM CLIMBS HIGH ABOVE THE MALL, GATHERING SPEED AND STRENGTH AS SHE GOES. IN ANOTHER BLINK, SHE SLAMS DOWN THROUGH THE HEART OF PYRO'S CREATION.
...BLASTING IT APART WITH A MASSIVE WEDGE OF AIR THAT HITS WITH THE FORCE OF A BATTERING RAM.

WOLVERINE-- MEIN VERRUCKT FREUND-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I'LL... LIVE, ELF. THE FIREPROOF UNSTABLE MOLECULES OF MY COSTUME SHIELDED ME FROM MOST O' THE FLAMES. AN' MY FAST-HEALING ABILITY'S ALREADY DEALIN' WITH MY BURNS.
I OWE STORM, PAL. A FEW MORE SECONDS AND... I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER.

OH, MAN-- 'CRAWLER, THIS... HURTS!
FOR YOU TO ADMIT THAT, WOLVERINE, YOU MUST BE IN AGONY. LET ME HELP--
WHAT THE DEVIL ?!
WOLVERINE, BEWARE! THAT'S NOT ME--I'M ME! ONE OF THE BROTHERHOOD MUST BE A SHAPE-CHANGER!

WHOEVER YOU ARE, VILLAIN, YOU'VE JUST BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW. I LIKE BEING UNIQUE. I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO DOPPELGANGERS.
NEITHER DO I!
THIS IS CRAZY! WHICH IS WHICH ?!

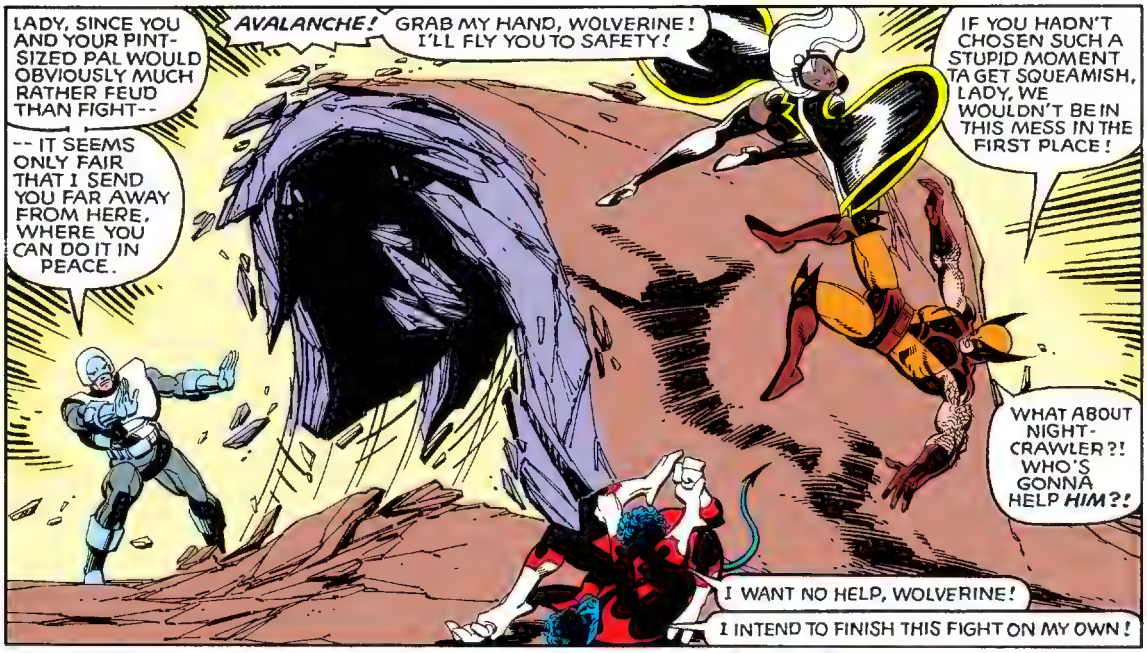
I'M STILL TOO WOOZY FROM MY BURNS-- MY SENSES CAN'T TELL 'EM APART.
BUT I FIGURE THE REAL NIGHTCRAWLER OUGHT'A BE ABLE TA TELEPORT OUTTA THE RANGE OF MY CLAWS.
WOLVERINE, SHEATHE YOUR CLAWS!
SNIKT!

NOT A CHANCE. WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT, STORM. I'M IN NO MOOD FER A DEBATE!
SHEATHE THEM--OR USE THEM ON ME.

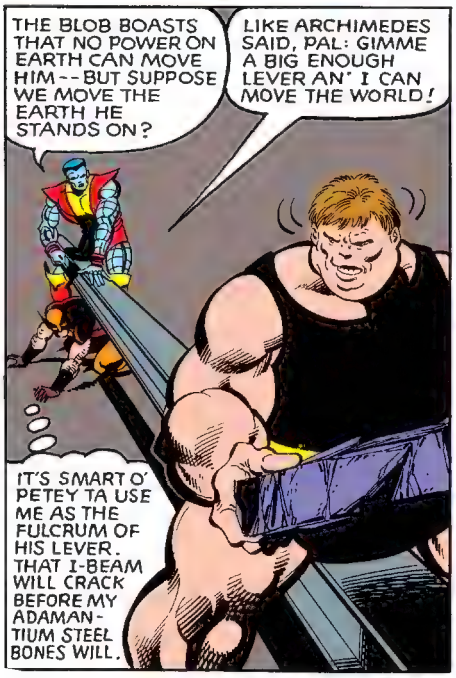
THAT CAN BE ARRANGED, BABE!
GODDESS, HE MEANS IT!
I AM LEADER OF THE X-MEN. WHILE THAT IS SO, YOU WILL USE YOUR CLAWS WHEN I COMMAND. NO OTHER TIME.
I WOULDN'T TAKE THAT FROM CYCLOPS!

YOU WILL TAKE IT FROM ME. YOU POSSESS SPEED, STRENGTH -- YOUR UNBREAKABLE ADAMANTIUM SKELETON MAKES YOU NEARLY INVULNERABLE. YOU SHOULD NOT NEED YOUR CLAWS--
--EXCEPT IN THE MOST EXTREME OF SITUATIONS, AGAINST THE DEADLIEST AND MOST POWERFUL OF FOES.

ALL RIGHT, STORM. I'LL DO IT YER WAY-- FER NOW.
BUT THIS CONVERSATION AIN'T FINISHED. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.
SNAKT!

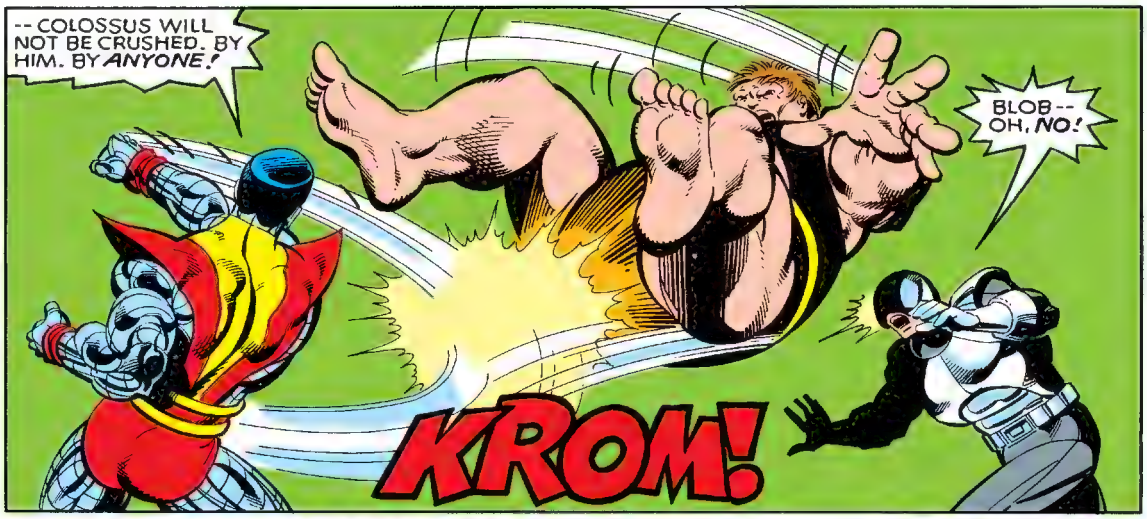

LADY, SINCE YOU AND YOUR PINT-SIZED PAL WOULD OBVIOUSLY MUCH RATHER FEUD THAN FIGHT--
AVALANCHE!
GRAB MY HAND, WOLVERINE! I'LL FLY YOU TO SAFETY!
IF YOU HADN'T CHOSEN SUCH A STUPID MOMENT TA GET SQUEAMISH, LADY, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
-- IT SEEMS ONLY FAIR THAT I SEND YOU FAR AWAY FROM HERE, WHERE YOU CAN DO IT IN PEACE.
WHAT ABOUT NIGHT-CRAWLER?! WHO'S GONNA HELP HIM?!
I WANT NO HELP, WOLVERINE!
I INTEND TO FINISH THIS FIGHT ON MY OWN!

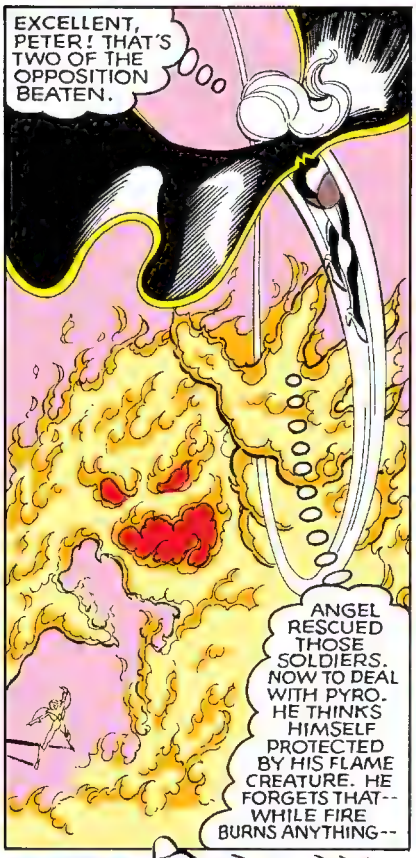
PYRO'S FLAME DEMON HAS GIVEN UP ON ME! HE'S ENDANGERING MORE SOLDIERS!
I'VE GOT TO AIRLIFT THEM OUT OF THE WAY.
FINE BY ME, BUB. I'M IN A MOOD TA DEFEAT SOME-ONE.
WOLVERINE, COME WITH ME! I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE TO DEFEAT THE BLOB!
THE BIGGER, THE BETTER!

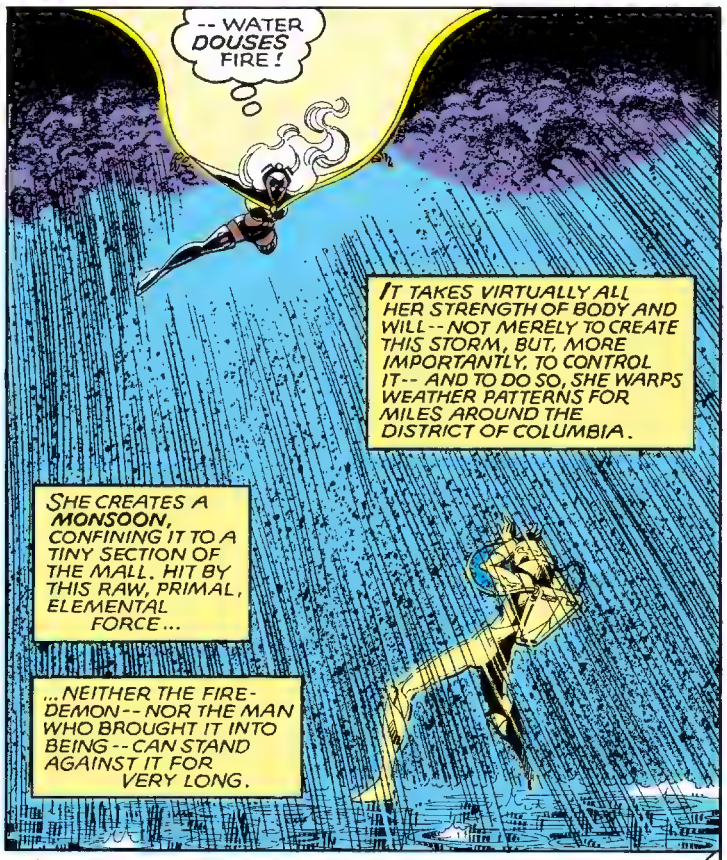

THE BLOB BOASTS THAT NO POWER ON EARTH CAN MOVE HIM--BUT SUPPOSE WE MOVE THE EARTH HE STANDS ON?
LIKE ARCHIMEDES SAID, PAL: GIMME A BIG ENOUGH LEVER AN' I CAN MOVE THE WORLD!
IT'S SMART O' PETEY TA USE ME AS THE FULCRUM OF HIS LEVER. THAT I-BEAM WILL CRACK BEFORE MY ADAMAN-TIUM STEEL BONES WILL.

YEEEOWW!
YA GOT HIM IN THE AIR, COLOSSUS. WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO WHEN HE COMES DOWN?!

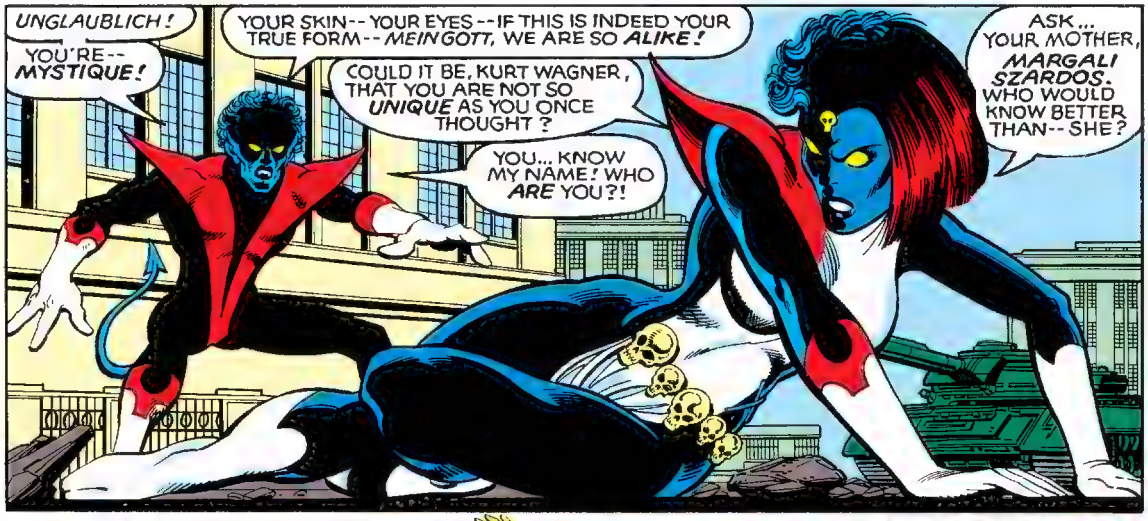
YOU GONNA DIE, RUSSKIE! THAT'S A PROMISE!
I INTEND TO PROVE THAT NO MATTER HOW AWESOME THE BLOB THINKS HIS POWER HAS BECOME--

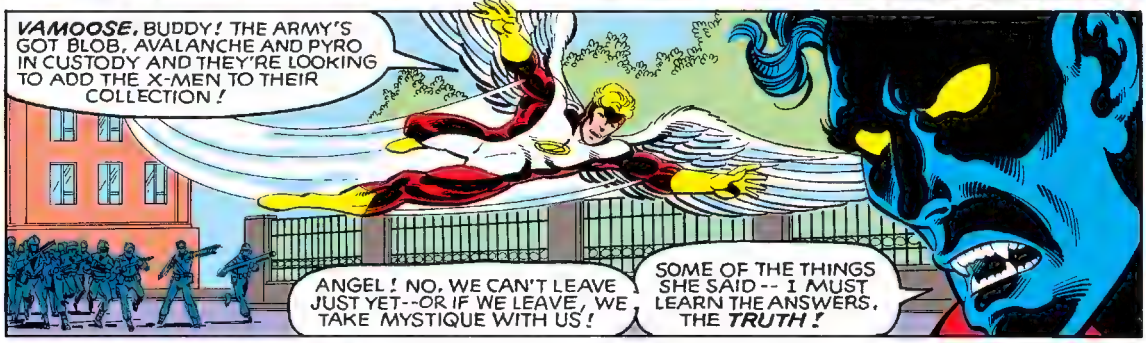

-- COLOSSUS WILL NOT BE CRUSHED. BY HIM. BY ANYONE!
BLOB -- OH, NO!
KROM!


EXCELLENT, PETER! THAT'S TWO OF THE OPPOSITION BEATEN.
ANGEL RESCUED THOSE SOLDIERS. NOW TO DEAL WITH PYRO. HE THINKS HIMSELF PROTECTED BY HIS FLAME CREATURE. HE FORGETS THAT -- WHILE FIRE BURNS ANYTHING --

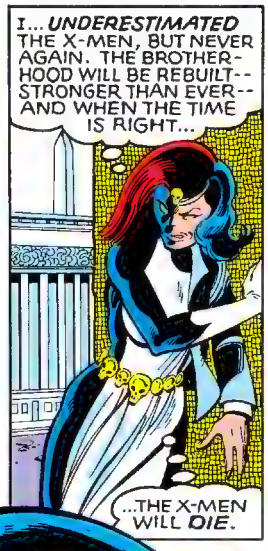

-- WATER DOUSES FIRE!
IT TAKES VIRTUALLY ALL HER STRENGTH OF BODY AND WILL -- NOT MERELY TO CREATE THIS STORM, BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO CONTROL IT -- AND TO DO SO, SHE WARPS WEATHER PATTERNS FOR MILES AROUND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
SHE CREATES A MONSOON, CONFINING IT TO A TINY SECTION OF THE MALL. HIT BY THIS RAW, PRIMAL, ELEMENTAL FORCE...
... NEITHER THE FIRE-DEMON -- NOR THE MAN WHO BROUGHT IT INTO BEING -- CAN STAND AGAINST IT FOR VERY LONG.

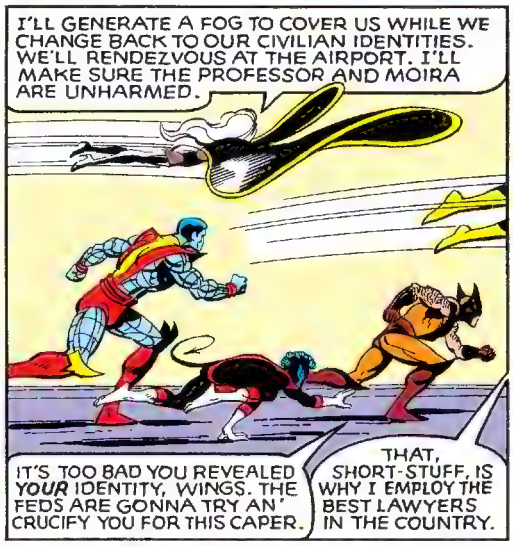
THREE OF THE BROTHERHOOD ARE DOWN.
NOW, A FOURTH JOINS THEM.
PERHAPS.


UNGLAUBLICH!
YOU'RE-- MYSTIQUE!
YOUR SKIN-- YOUR EYES--IF THIS IS INDEED YOUR TRUE FORM--MEINGOTT, WE ARE SO ALIKE!
COULD IT BE, KURT WAGNER, THAT YOU ARE NOT SO UNIQUE AS YOU ONCE THOUGHT?
YOU... KNOW MY NAME! WHO ARE YOU?!
ASK... YOUR MOTHER, MARGALI SZARDOS. WHO WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN-- SHE?

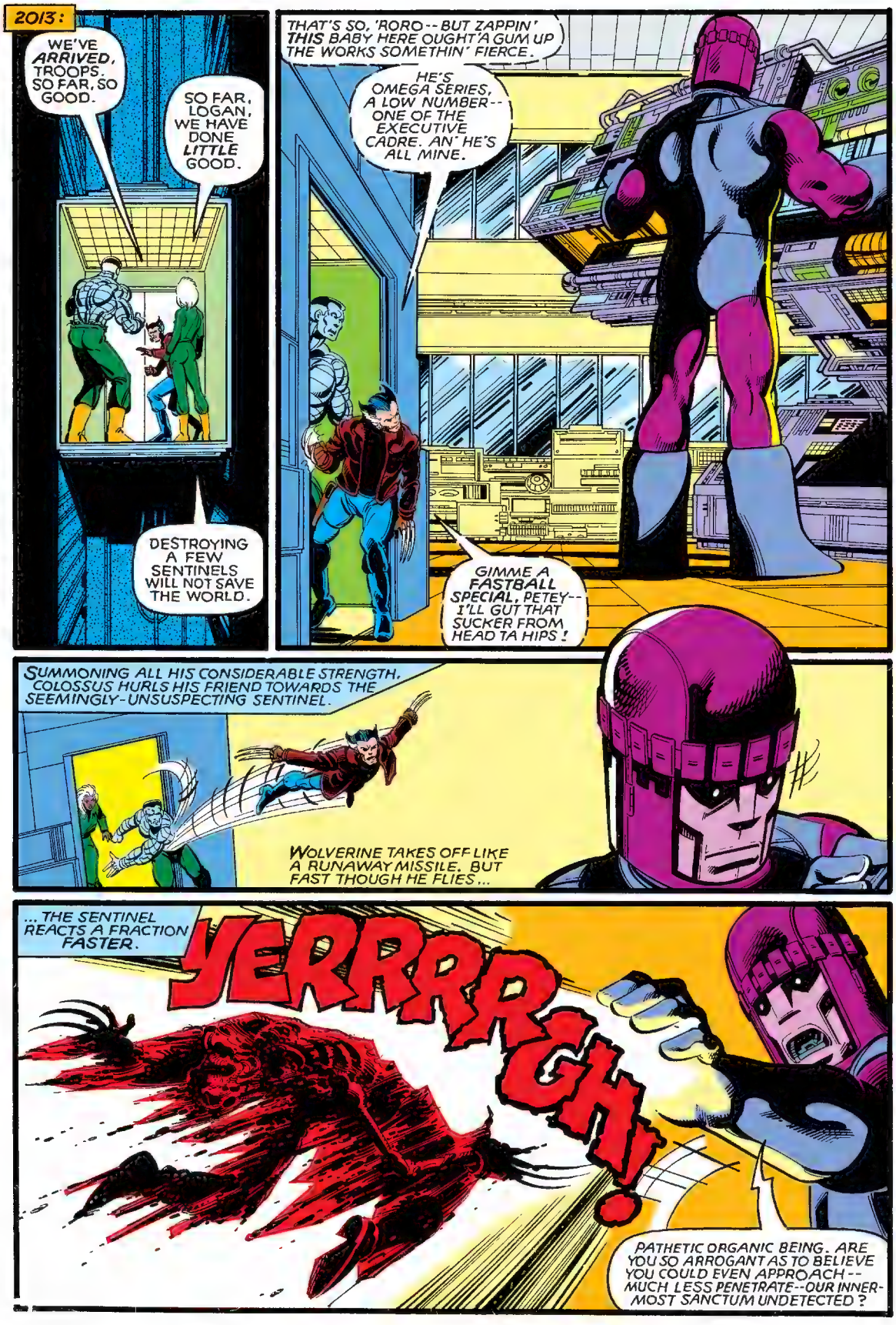

VAMOOSE, BUDDY! THE ARMY'S GOT BLOB, AVALANCHE AND PYRO IN CUSTODY AND THEY'RE LOOKING TO ADD THE X-MEN TO THEIR COLLECTION!
ANGEL! NO, WE CAN'T LEAVE JUST YET--OR IF WE LEAVE, WE TAKE MYSTIQUE WITH US!
SOME OF THE THINGS SHE SAID-- I MUST LEARN THE ANSWERS. THE TRUTH!

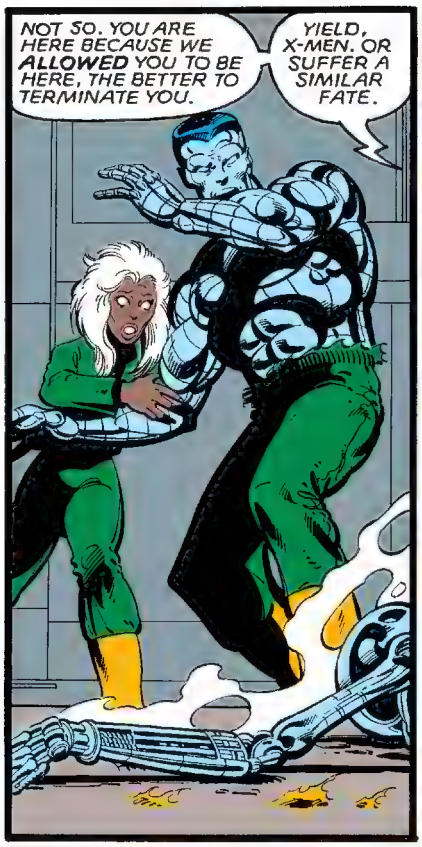
BUT, WHEN THE GERMAN-BORN MUTANT TURNS TO FACE HIS FOE...
SHE'S DISAPPEARED!
WITH HER SHAPE-CHANGING POWER, SHE CAN TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO ANY-ONE SHE PLEASES!
I'LL NEVER FIND HER!


I... UNDERESTIMATED THE X-MEN, BUT NEVER AGAIN. THE BROTHER-HOOD WILL BE REBUILT--STRONGER THAN EVER--AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...
...THE X-MEN WILL DIE.


I'LL GENERATE A FOG TO COVER US WHILE WE CHANGE BACK TO OUR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES. WE'LL RENDEZVOUS AT THE AIRPORT. I'LL MAKE SURE THE PROFESSOR AND MOIRA ARE UNHARMED.
IT'S TOO BAD YOU REVEALED YOUR IDENTITY, WINGS. THE FEDS ARE GONNA TRY AN' CRUCIFY YOU FOR THIS CAPER.
THAT, SHORT-STUFF, IS WHY I EMPLOY THE BEST LAWYERS IN THE COUNTRY.

STORM-- ALL OF YOU-- WAIT!
WHAT ABOUT SPRITE?! WHY HAS SHE NOT JOINED US?!
AND DESTINY-- THE LAST OF THE BROTHERHOOD-- WHERE IS SHE?!?
WOULDN'T SPRITE STILL BE PROTECTING SENATOR KELLY?
OF COURSE-- OH, NO!

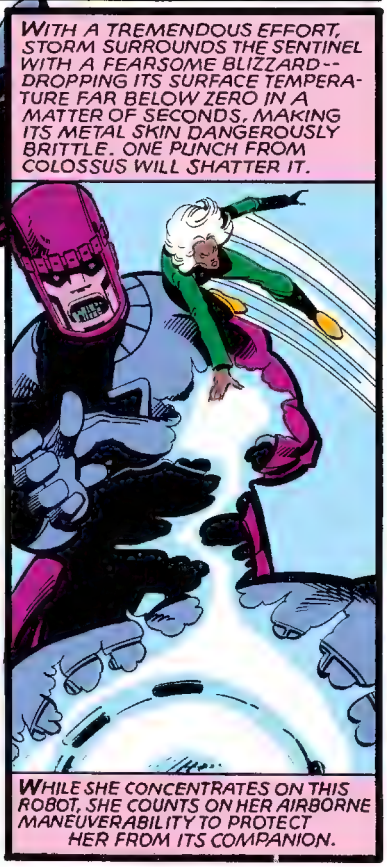

2013:
WE'VE ARRIVED, TROOPS. SO FAR, SO GOOD.
SO FAR, LOGAN, WE HAVE DONE LITTLE GOOD.
DESTROYING A FEW SENTINELS WILL NOT SAVE THE WORLD.
THAT'S SO, 'RORO -- BUT ZAPPIN' THIS BABY HERE OUGHT'A GUM UP THE WORKS SOMETHIN' FIERCE.
HE'S OMEGA SERIES, A LOW NUMBER -- ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE CADRE. AN' HE'S ALL MINE.
GIMME A FASTBALL SPECIAL, PETEY -- I'LL GUT THAT SUCKER FROM HEAD TA HIPS!
SUMMONING ALL HIS CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH, COLOSSUS HURLS HIS FRIEND TOWARDS THE SEEMINGLY-UNSUSPECTING SENTINEL.
WOLVERINE TAKES OFF LIKE A RUNAWAY MISSILE, BUT FAST THOUGH HE FLIES...
... THE SENTINEL REACTS A FRACTION FASTER.
YERRRRGH!
PATHETIC ORGANIC BEING. ARE YOU SO ARROGANT AS TO BELIEVE YOU COULD EVEN APPROACH -- MUCH LESS PENETRATE -- OUR INNERMOST SANCTUM UNDETECTED?

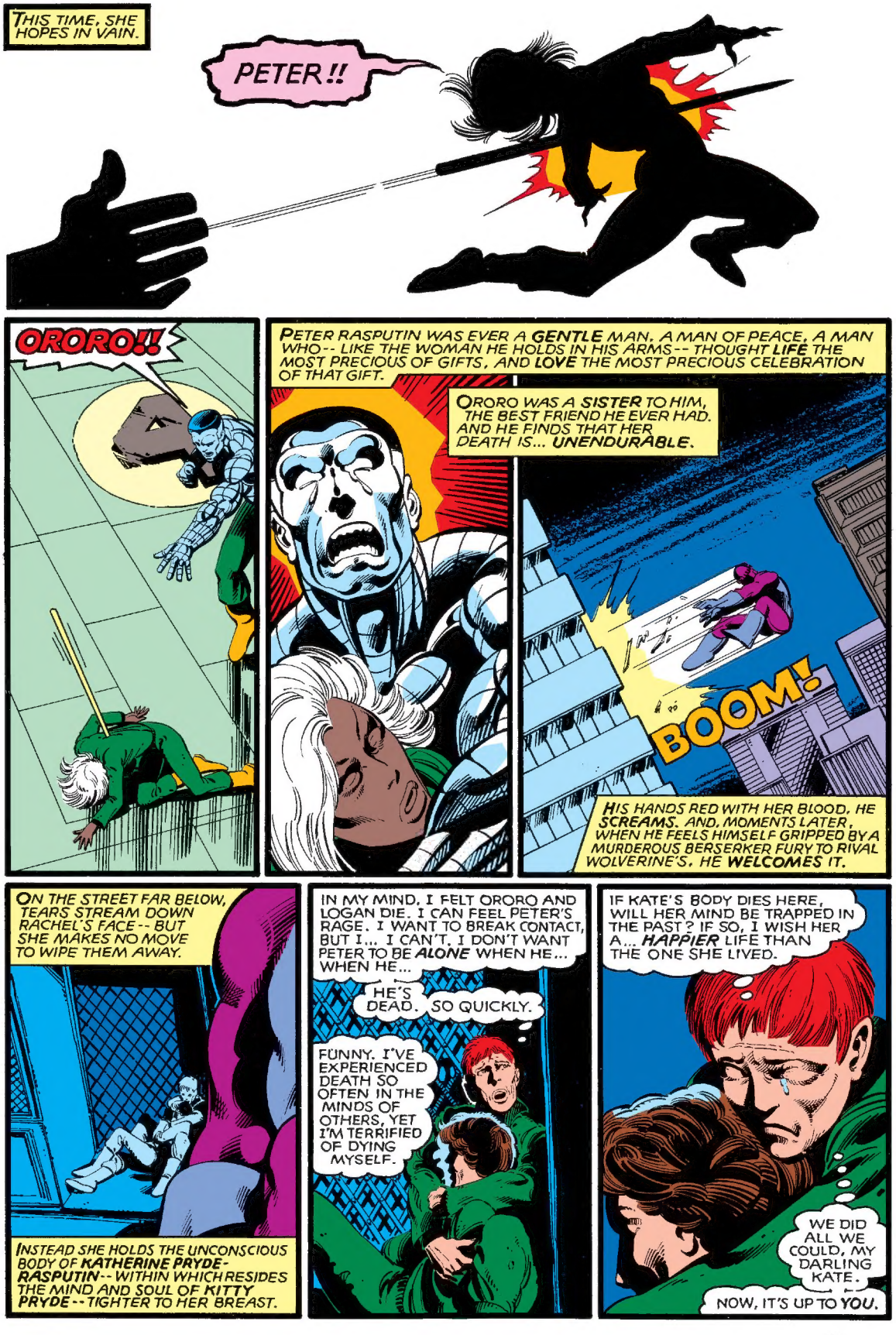

NOT SO. YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE WE ALLOWED YOU TO BE HERE, THE BETTER TO TERMINATE YOU.
YIELD, X-MEN. OR SUFFER A SIMILAR FATE.

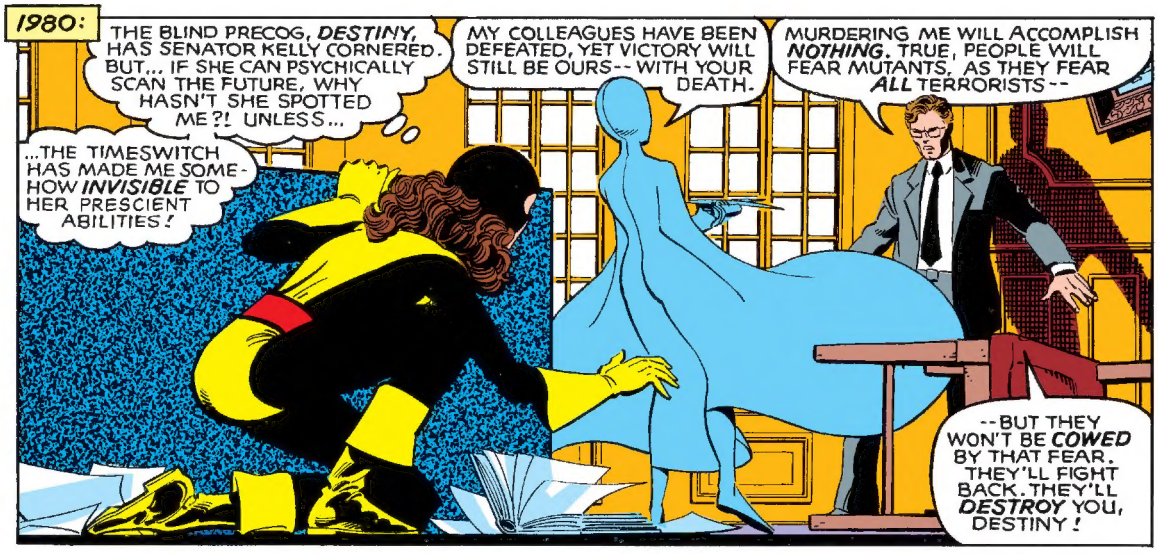
NEVER!
SQUARRRZZZZK!!

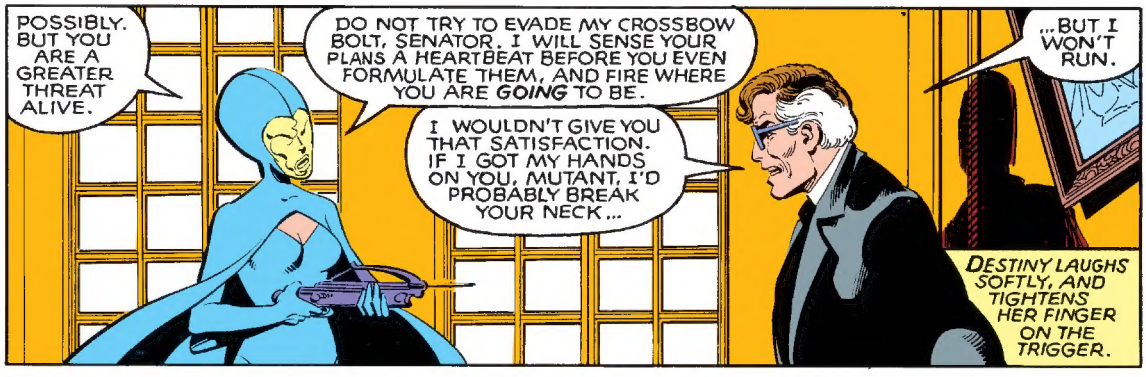
SENTINEL OMEGA FIVE HAS BEEN TERMINATED. ADDITIONAL ALPHA COMBAT UNITS RESPOND TO THIS LOCATION--IMMEDIATELY!
WE MAY BE HURT, SENTINEL, BUT WE ARE NOT BEATEN!
WE HAVE FACED GREATER ODDS--AND TRIUMPHED!

TERMINATE ONE SENTINEL--TERMINATE ONE THOUSAND--IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. OUR NUMBERS ARE TOO GREAT.
EVENTUALLY, MUTANTS, WE WILL OVERWHELM YOU.
STORM, I'VE TOPPLED HIM! FREEZE HIM!


WITH A TREMENDOUS EFFORT, STORM SURROUNDS THE SENTINEL WITH A FEARSOME BLIZZARD--DROPPING ITS SURFACE TEMPERATURE FAR BELOW ZERO IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, MAKING ITS METAL SKIN DANGEROUSLY BRITTLE. ONE PUNCH FROM COLOSSUS WILL SHATTER IT.
WHILE SHE CONCENTRATES ON THIS ROBOT, SHE COUNTS ON HER AIRBORNE MANEUVERABILITY TO PROTECT HER FROM ITS COMPANION.

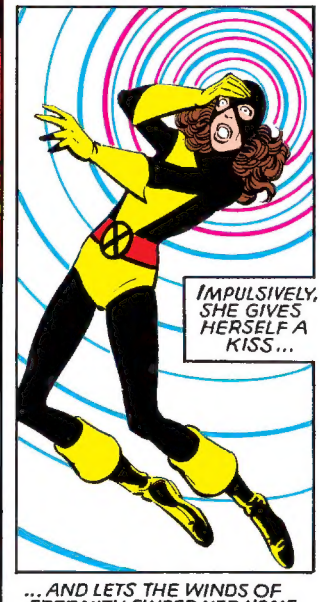

THIS TIME, SHE HOPES IN VAIN.
PETER!!
ORORO!!
PETER RASPUTIN WAS EVER A GENTLE MAN. A MAN OF PEACE, A MAN WHO-- LIKE THE WOMAN HE HOLDS IN HIS ARMS-- THOUGHT LIFE THE MOST PRECIOUS OF GIFTS, AND LOVE THE MOST PRECIOUS CELEBRATION OF THAT GIFT.
ORORO WAS A SISTER TO HIM, THE BEST FRIEND HE EVER HAD. AND HE FINDS THAT HER DEATH IS... UNENDURABLE.
BOOM!
HIS HANDS RED WITH HER BLOOD, HE SCREAMS. AND, MOMENTS LATER, WHEN HE FEELS HIMSELF GRIPPED BY A MURDEROUS BERSERKER FURY TO RIVAL WOLVERINE'S, HE WELCOMES IT.
ON THE STREET FAR BELOW, TEARS STREAM DOWN RACHEL'S FACE-- BUT SHE MAKES NO MOVE TO WIPE THEM AWAY.
INSTEAD SHE HOLDS THE UNCONSCIOUS BODY OF KATHERINE PRYDE-RASPUTIN-- WITHIN WHICH RESIDES THE MIND AND SOUL OF KITTY PRYDE--TIGHTER TO HER BREAST.
IN MY MIND, I FELT ORORO AND LOGAN DIE. I CAN FEEL PETER'S RAGE. I WANT TO BREAK CONTACT, BUT I... I CAN'T. I DON'T WANT PETER TO BE ALONE WHEN HE... WHEN HE...
HE'S DEAD.
SO QUICKLY.
FUNNY. I'VE EXPERIENCED DEATH SO OFTEN IN THE MINDS OF OTHERS, YET I'M TERRIFIED OF DYING MYSELF.
IF KATE'S BODY DIES HERE, WILL HER MIND BE TRAPPED IN THE PAST? IF SO, I WISH HER A... HAPPIER LIFE THAN THE ONE SHE LIVED.
WE DID ALL WE COULD, MY DARLING KATE.
NOW, IT'S UP TO YOU.

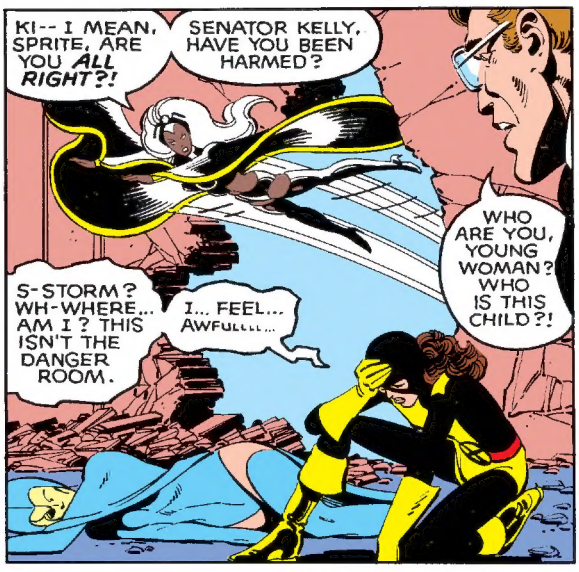

1980:
THE BLIND PRECOG, DESTINY, HAS SENATOR KELLY CORNERED. BUT... IF SHE CAN PSYCHICALLY SCAN THE FUTURE, WHY HASN'T SHE SPOTTED ME?! UNLESS...
...THE TIMESWITCH HAS MADE ME SOMEHOW INVISIBLE TO HER PRESCIENT ABILITIES!
MY COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, YET VICTORY WILL STILL BE OURS-- WITH YOUR DEATH.
MURDERING ME WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. TRUE, PEOPLE WILL FEAR MUTANTS, AS THEY FEAR ALL TERRORISTS--
--BUT THEY WON'T BE COWED BY THAT FEAR. THEY'LL FIGHT BACK. THEY'LL DESTROY YOU, DESTINY!


POSSIBLY. BUT YOU ARE A GREATER THREAT ALIVE.
DO NOT TRY TO EVADE MY CROSSBOW BOLT, SENATOR. I WILL SENSE YOUR PLANS A HEARTBEAT BEFORE YOU EVEN FORMULATE THEM, AND FIRE WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO BE.
I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU THAT SATISFACTION. IF I GOT MY HANDS ON YOU, MUTANT, I'D PROBABLY BREAK YOUR NECK...
...BUT I WON'T RUN.
DESTINY LAUGHS SOFTLY, AND TIGHTENS HER FINGER ON THE TRIGGER.

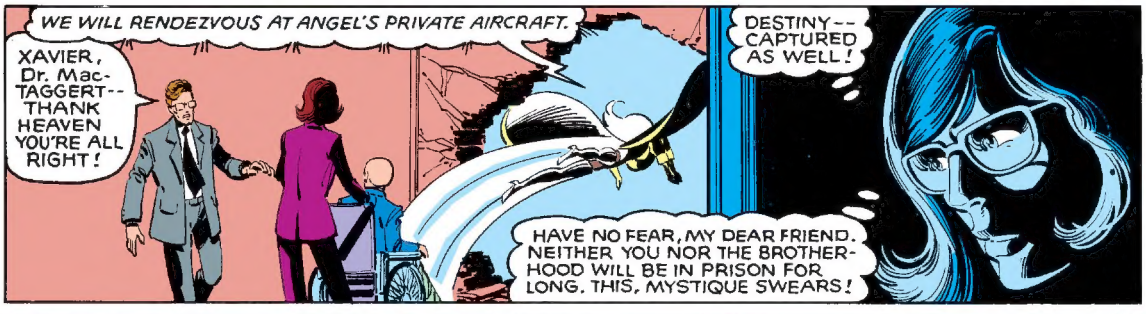
BUT, AS DESTINY FIRES, KATE "PHASES" WRAITH-LIKE THROUGH HER, CALLING UPON HER DECADES OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO ACT AS HER CHILD SELF COULD NOT...
MY-MY-- MIND!
THE TEMPORAL ANOMALY-- A PART OF ME-- CONSUMING ME!
SENATOR-- DUCK!

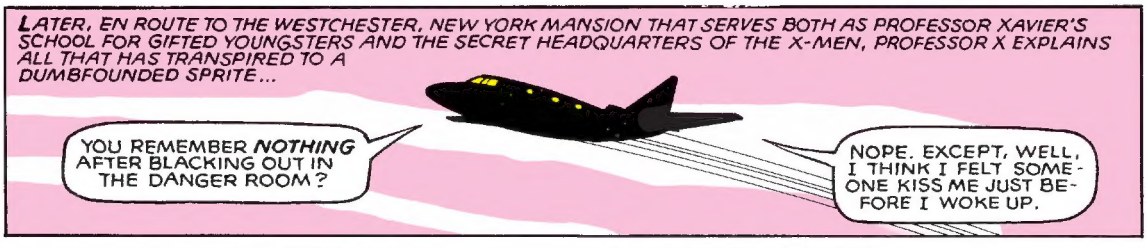
SHE WILLS HER SHOULDERS TO BECOME SOLID, BASHING THE OTHER WOMAN'S ARM AND THROWING OFF HER AIM.

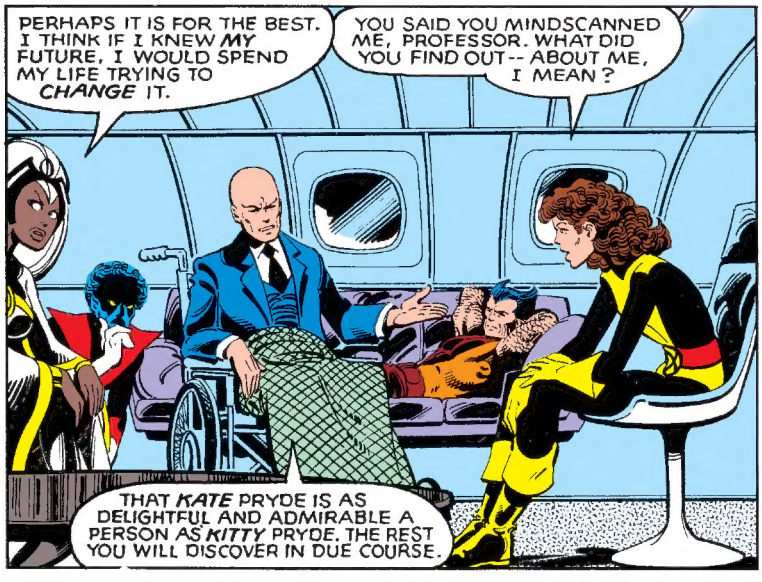

IN THAT SPLIT-SECOND, AN ABYSS OPENS WITHIN KATE PRYDE. REALITY TWISTS INSIDE-OUT AND, SUDDENLY, SHE COMES FACE-TO-FACE WITH HERSELF AS A CHILD:-- SO INNOCENT, SO VULNERABLE, SO YOUNG.
IMPULSIVELY, SHE GIVES HERSELF A KISS...
...AND LETS THE WINDS OF ETERNITY SWEEP HER HOME.


KI-- I MEAN, SPRITE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SENATOR KELLY, HAVE YOU BEEN HARMED?
WHO ARE YOU, YOUNG WOMAN? WHO IS THIS CHILD?!
S-STORM? WH-WHERE... AM I? THIS ISN'T THE DANGER ROOM.
I... FEEL... AWFULLLL...

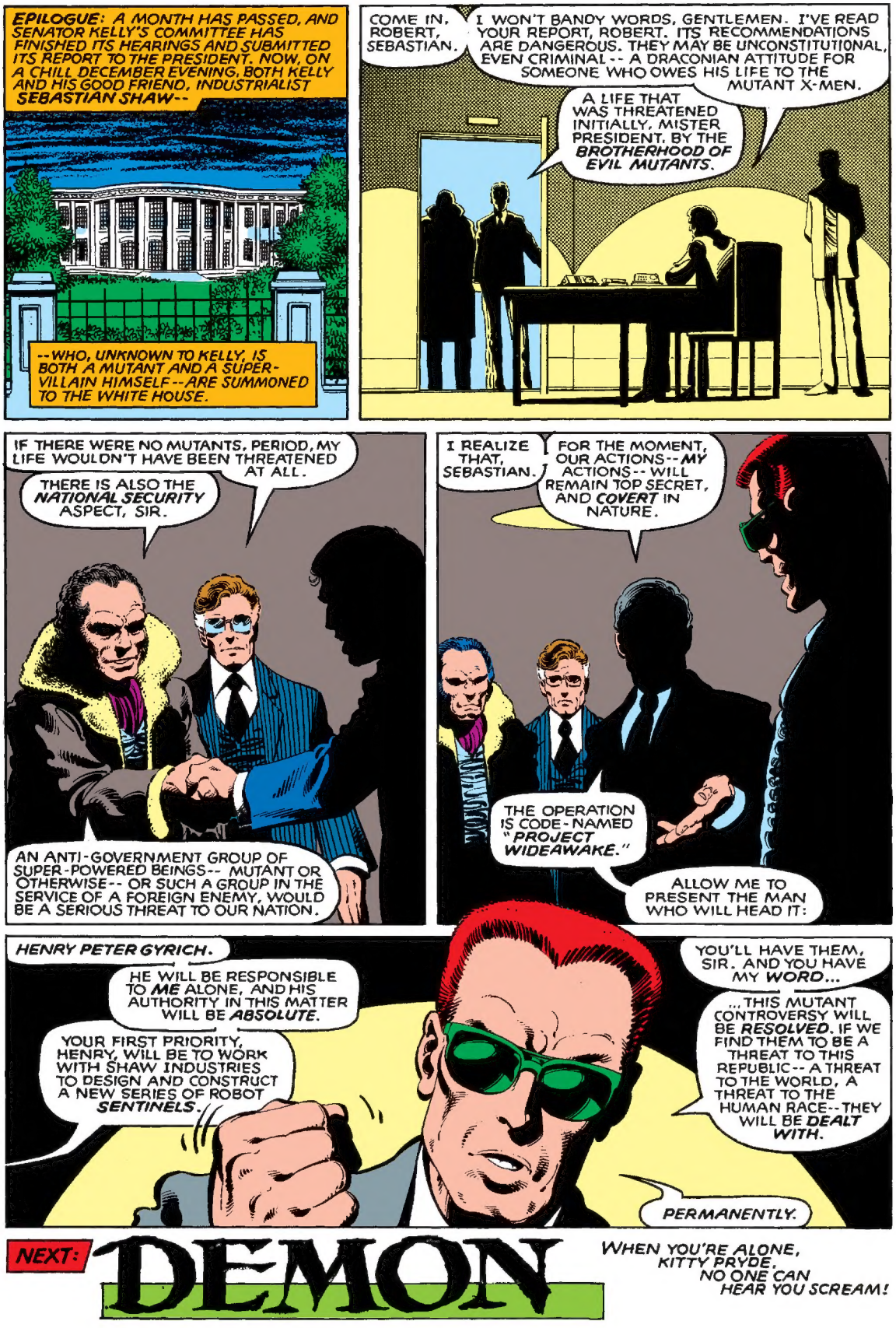
I AM STORM, LEADER OF THE X-MEN. AND I SUSPECT THIS... CHILD IS THE PERSON WHO JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
MUTANTS, LIKE PEOPLE, ARE BOTH GOOD AND BAD. YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT, SENATOR, BEFORE YOU SEEK TO CONDEMN US ALL.
S-STORM...?
PROFESSOR, THE AUTHORITIES ARE COMING. I MUST LEAVE.


WE WILL RENDEZVOUS AT ANGEL'S PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.
XAVIER, Dr. MacTAGGERT-- THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
DESTINY-- CAPTURED AS WELL!
HAVE NO FEAR, MY DEAR FRIEND. NEITHER YOU NOR THE BROTHERHOOD WILL BE IN PRISON FOR LONG. THIS, MYSTIQUE SWEARS!


LATER, EN ROUTE TO THE WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK MANSION THAT SERVES BOTH AS PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS AND THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE X-MEN, PROFESSOR X EXPLAINS ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED TO A DUMBFOUNDED SPRITE...
YOU REMEMBER NOTHING AFTER BLACKING OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM?
NOPE. EXCEPT, WELL, I THINK I FELT SOMEONE KISS ME JUST BEFORE I WOKE UP.


PERHAPS IT IS FOR THE BEST. I THINK IF I KNEW MY FUTURE, I WOULD SPEND MY LIFE TRYING TO CHANGE IT.
YOU SAID YOU MINDSCANNED ME, PROFESSOR. WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT-- ABOUT ME, I MEAN?
THAT KATE PRYDE IS AS DELIGHTFUL AND ADMIRABLE A PERSON AS KITTY PRYDE. THE REST YOU WILL DISCOVER IN DUE COURSE.

PROFESSOR, WE SAVED SENATOR KELLY. KITTY'S MIND HAS BEEN RETURNED TO HER BODY.
DOES THAT MEAN WE CHANGED THE FUTURE?
I DO NOT KNOW, WARREN. CLICHÉ THOUGH IT SOUNDS, ONLY TIME WILL TELL.


EPILOGUE: A MONTH HAS PASSED, AND SENATOR KELLY'S COMMITTEE HAS FINISHED ITS HEARINGS AND SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. NOW, ON A CHILL DECEMBER EVENING, BOTH KELLY AND HIS GOOD FRIEND, INDUSTRIALIST SEBASTIAN SHAW--
--WHO, UNKNOWN TO KELLY, IS BOTH A MUTANT AND A SUPER-VILLAIN HIMSELF--ARE SUMMONED TO THE WHITE HOUSE.
COME IN, ROBERT, SEBASTIAN.
I WON'T BANDY WORDS, GENTLEMEN. I'VE READ YOUR REPORT, ROBERT. ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DANGEROUS. THEY MAY BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, EVEN CRIMINAL -- A DRACONIAN ATTITUDE FOR SOMEONE WHO OWES HIS LIFE TO THE MUTANT X-MEN.
A LIFE THAT WAS THREATENED INITIALLY, MISTER PRESIDENT, BY THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS.
IF THERE WERE NO MUTANTS, PERIOD, MY LIFE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THREATENED AT ALL.
THERE IS ALSO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECT, SIR.
AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED BEINGS-- MUTANT OR OTHERWISE-- OR SUCH A GROUP IN THE SERVICE OF A FOREIGN ENEMY, WOULD BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR NATION.
I REALIZE THAT, SEBASTIAN.
FOR THE MOMENT, OUR ACTIONS--MY ACTIONS-- WILL REMAIN TOP SECRET, AND COVERT IN NATURE.
THE OPERATION IS CODE-NAMED "PROJECT WIDEAWAKE."
ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE MAN WHO WILL HEAD IT:
HENRY PETER GYRICH.
HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO ME ALONE, AND HIS AUTHORITY IN THIS MATTER WILL BE ABSOLUTE.
YOUR FIRST PRIORITY, HENRY, WILL BE TO WORK WITH SHAW INDUSTRIES TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A NEW SERIES OF ROBOT SENTINELS.
YOU'LL HAVE THEM, SIR. AND YOU HAVE MY WORD...
...THIS MUTANT CONTROVERSY WILL BE RESOLVED. IF WE FIND THEM TO BE A THREAT TO THIS REPUBLIC-- A THREAT TO THE WORLD, A THREAT TO THE HUMAN RACE--THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH.
PERMANENTLY.
NEXT: DEMON
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, KITTY PRYDE, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM!